

## HEAVY HAIL HITS CROPS ROUND RUSH

Large Area of Country Devastated  
—Cotton, Melons and Fruit are  
Wiped Out and Corn Suf-  
fers Seriously

## LAWTON ALSO IN PATH OF STORM

Stricken Section Extends as Far as  
Stirling—No Damage at Mar-  
low—Nearly Half Inch  
of Rain Here

Special to the Daily Express.

Rush Springs, Okla., May 19.—A heavy hail storm which visited this section last night made practically a clean sweep of growing cotton, melons, fruit and vegetables and seriously damaged corn over a large area east, west, north and south.

Reports received this morning indicate that the storm extended as far east as eight miles and west a distance of six or seven miles, six or seven miles south and between four and five miles north. However, this entire area was not devastated as the storm seems to have been content with picking out strips in which to play havoc. The greatest damage is reported in one strip of country east of town but the losses in some sections west of town are almost as serious.

The storm came from the south, reaching here about 10 o'clock. It was accompanied by considerable wind and heavy rain. The downpour of hail continued for about twenty minutes. The stones were not large, but they came so thick and fast that all vegetation in their path was beaten to pieces, while trees were practically stripped bare.

In Rush Springs a number of windows were broken and some of the store awnings were demolished, while gardens were laid waste and fruit trees were denuded.

In the strips where the storm did its worst work, cotton that was up to a total loss and the same is true of melons. The few wheat fields that were hit were also ruined. Estimates of the damage to growing corn vary from 50 to 75 per cent, the more conservative inclining toward the former figure.

Lawton Hit, Too.

Special to the Daily Express.

Lawton, Okla., May 19.—The heaviest hail storm in years hit this section last night about 9 o'clock, doing serious damage to all growing crops. Around Fort Sill the storm was very severe.

The storm appears to have traveled in a northeasterly direction. Heavy hail was reported at Stirling and east of that place.

Heavy Rain—No Hail.

Reports from Marlow state that a heavy rain fell there last night but no hail. In Chickasha nearly half an inch of rain fell but this section escaped the hail storm.

All the jurors from the Rush Springs section who were attending the county court here, were dismissed by Judge Davenport this morning in order that they might return home to look after their farms.

WEATHER ELSEWHERE.

Western Union reports received at 8 a. m.:

Texas.

Generally cloudy, light showers over entire state, except extreme western portion; Amarillo clear, no rain; El Paso, clear, no rain. Average temperature 70.

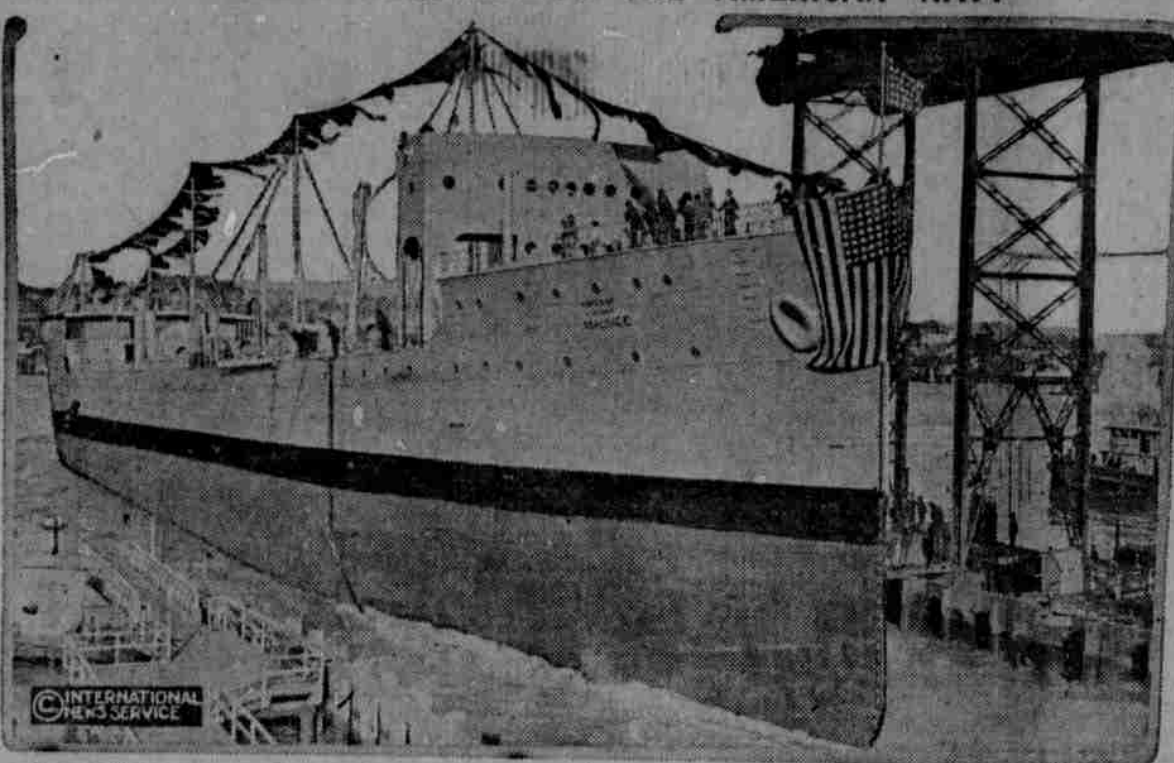
Oklahoma.

Generally cloudy, light rains, Oklahoma City. Temperature 68.

CLEAN-UP CEMETERY.

Tomorrow has been designated as the clean-up day for the I. O. O. F. cemetery and it is confidently expected that all who have friends or relatives in "the silent city" will assist in ridding the lots of weeds, improving the flower beds there and creating the maximum amount of improvements there. All are urged not to forget the day or the place and to co-operate in the beautification of the cemetery.

## RECENT ADDITION TO THE AMERICAN NAVY



The United States auxiliary and supply ship, launched recently at Mare Island navy yard, California, photographed as she slid down the ways.

## LARGE ORDER FOR CARS IS RECEIVED.

By United Press.  
Chicago, May 19.—The Western Steel Car and Foundry Co. announced today that it had received an order for thirty-five hundred cars, which will make it necessary to run their plants on full time by June.

## CO. COURT GRINDING

The county court is steadily grinding, the case before the court this morning being that of Sarah Hillery vs. Eva Davis, a suit of replevin involving the ownership of a cow. It was tried before the court with the jury waived. Judge R. M. Davenport has the case under advisement.

Yesterday afternoon the jury in the case of Dave Quackenbush vs. W. C. Norton returned a verdict of \$15 to the plaintiff. It was a damage suit, the plaintiff claiming damages to the amount of \$67. The defendant in a counter claim stated that the plaintiff was due him \$150 damages, to stock and crop.

The case of the Van Arsdale-Osborne Brokerage Company vs. J. I. Hart, was decided in favor of the defendant by the jury. It was an action wherein the plaintiff sued for the recovery of a note executed in payment of a hail insurance policy. The defendant claimed that the policy had never been delivered and the verdict found in his favor.

## ASSEMBLY CONVENES

By United Press.  
Rochester, N. Y., May 19.—A large proportion of the delegates to the annual meeting of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church have already arrived in town, and the remainder are expected to put in an appearance before the formal opening of the gathering tomorrow morning.

The most important event of the opening day will be the selection of a moderator. Many names are mentioned as possible candidates, including those of the Rev. Dr. J. Ross Stevenson, president of Princeton Theological Seminary; the Rev. Dr. George B. Stewart, president of Auburn Theological Seminary; the Rev. Dr. A. B. Marshall, president of Omaha Theological Seminary; the Rev. Dr. Aquilla Webb of Louisville, and the Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Calhoun of Knoxville.

PRESIDENTIAL YACHT  
PASSES VIRGINIA CAPES.

By United Press.  
Washington, May 19.—The navy department announced this morning that President Wilson's yacht, the Mayflower, had passed the Virginia capes en route back to Washington from New York.

## SUBMARINE ACTIVITY IS SUSPENDED

United States Officials Receive In-  
formal Information of German  
Action—Another British  
Steamer Sunk

By United Press.  
Washington, May 19.—The United States government was informally informed that Germany has halted its submarine warfare on merchant shipping.

Officials of the German embassy say this policy is only temporary. Ambassador Gerard at Berlin has not notified the department of state of any official action taken by Germany in regard to it.

The announcement of the suspension of submarine activity was made in connection with an expression of the belief of German officials that the passengers on the Transylvania were "nervous" when they thought they saw a torpedo.

An immediate answer to the American note to Germany is not expected by United States officials.

Ambassador Gerard notified Secretary Bryan that Germany will not reply to the American note before next week. The Italian situation was signed as the reason.

The delay is causing the state department some anxiety.

British Steamer Sunk.

By United Press.  
London, May 19.—It is announced that the British steamer Drumoree was torpedoed. The members of the crew were saved. The Drumoree was bound for Texas ports without a cargo. The first torpedo failed to sink her and the submarine fired another one into her after she had picked up a tow by wireless. The crew were landed at Cardiff.

Note.—The above dispatch appears to contradict the information coming from Washington to the effect that submarine warfare on merchant ships has been suspended for the present. It will be noted, however, that the time of the torpedoing of the Drumoree is not stated. It is also possible that the commander of the submarine failed to get notice from Berlin, in any order for a halt in the attacks of merchantmen was issued.—Ed.

## COLD WEATHER IN PANHANDLE

By United Press.  
Dallas, May 19.—Unusually cold and unseasonable weather is reported today throughout this state.

A temperature of thirty-six degrees was reported in the Panhandle with frost predicted there tonight. Low temperatures are reported at other places also but not so bad as in the Panhandle.

Reports received from Chicago today say cold weather has ruined much fruit and vegetables in the middle west.

## WEATHER FORECAST.

For Oklahoma.

Tonight, cloudy, rain in east portion, cold, Thursday cloudy, warmer.  
Local Temperatures.  
During the twenty-four hours ending at 8 a. m.  
Maximum ..... 76  
Minimum ..... 61  
Rain, .46 inch.

## TO DECIDE ABOUT 4TH

Does Chickasha want to celebrate the "Glorious Fourth" this year?

This is the question that will be decided by the Retail Merchants' association at a special meeting which will be held Thursday evening, May 20, at the usual place.

The officers of the association are eager to have all the merchants present at the meeting to the end that the matter may be thoroughly considered and that the action taken may be a full expression of the wishes of the business men of the city.

It is thought advisable that a decision in regard to the matter be reached at this time in order to get preparations under way early in the event that a celebration is desired. It is strongly urged that every merchant show up Thursday evening and make known his views on the subject.

## ANNOUNCE SHAKE-UP IN CABINET

By United Press.  
London, May 19.—In the house of commons today Premier Asquith announced that a reconstruction of the ministry on a broader political basis was under consideration.

The house was thronged as never before in anticipation of an important announcement by the premier.

Asquith's statement is taken as confirmation of the report that a coalition cabinet is to replace the present Liberal one.

By United Press.  
London, May 19.—New cabinet nominations are expected before many hours as a result of Lord Fisher's retirement after having difficulties with First Lord of Admiralty Churchill.

## Carranza Planning to Move His Capital

By United Press.  
Galveston, May 19.—Passengers arriving here on steamers from Mexico report the poor people at Vera Cruz jamming the corn and bread lines.

Carranza is reported to be planning to move his capital to Puebla and then to try to take Mexico City.

## ITALY MAY MOBILIZE IN 24 HOURS

No Declaration of War Expected  
Till Deputies Convene Tomorrow—Students Eager to  
Enlist in Army

## BLOODY BATTLE IS FOUGHT IN FLANDERS

Germans Advance Close to French  
Trenches and are Repulsed—  
Outer Forts of Przemysl  
are Bombed

By United Press.

Rome, May 19.—It is believed that the mobilization of the Italian troops may be ordered within twenty-four hours, though it is probable that there will be no declaration of war against Austria until after the chamber of deputies meets tomorrow.

It is understood that announcement of the Italian policy will be made by the government when the deputies convene. Students at the large Italian universities where the sentiment for intervention is strong are offering to enlist in the army en masse.

The military authorities have taken virtual control of all railways, bridges and tunnels are being closely guarded. It is officially denied that the German and Austrian ambassadors are ready to quit the city.

Fight in Mists.

By United Press.

Paris, May 19.—In a bloody battle that was fought in the mists overhanging Flanders, a strong German detachment was repulsed, says an official statement issued today.

The Germans were shielded by fog and rain and they approached to within a few yards of the French trenches, throwing bombs and hand grenades as they advanced.

The German troops then charged through a flooded field toward the French trenches. Machine guns shattered their foremost columns, almost entirely annihilating their first line.

The supporting columns then broke and retreated. This engagement occurred on the east bank of the Yser. Elsewhere a lull in the fighting is reported by the war office.

Przemysl is Menaced.

By United Press.

Petrograd, May 19.—The bombardment of the outer forts of Przemysl by the Austro-German armies is becoming increasingly violent, according to advices received here.

Russian aviators report that the enemy has brought up heavy pieces of artillery in the vicinity of Babice.

The reported occupation of Czernowitz by the Russians is not confirmed by the war office.

## ALFALFA IS HIT BY RAIN STORM

J. Pluvius tipped the sprinkling can last night and dampened many acres of alfalfa hay, the first cutting of the season. In some instances the hay has been cut for several days and was down in the field when the rainstorm of last night visited the section. However, several farmers reported this morning that all their hay was safely stored in the barns before the rain. Others had baled some.

During the past few days, with the sun shining brightly and with prospects ahead for ideal "hay" weather, the sickles over Grady county have been busy. Because of so much sap in the stalk, generally evident in the first cutting of alfalfa, a longer time was required for the hay to "cure" on the ground before baling. This condition caught many of the farmers who would other wise have had their hay in the barns, in bales or stacked before the rain.

In the opinion of O. C. Cooper, county farm agent, it does not necessarily follow that the farmers will lose much hay on account of the rain. "Where the cutting is fresh and the hay that is down is yet green, there is small necessity of losing a great deal of it,"

said Mr. Cooper. "That is, unless too rain continues for several days. If the sun comes out men should go into the fields and turn the hay over, go back the following day, turn it over again and so on until it has dried."

Prospects for a good yield of the first cutting of alfalfa were exceedingly good and the average yield was estimated at about three fourths of a ton per acre. Some were estimated as high as a ton, while a few fields it was thought would go as low as a half ton per acre. The acreage of alfalfa in Grady county is greatly increased over last year and the average yield of the crop seeded this year was estimated at about half a ton per acre. The next cutting of this year's seedling is expected to equal in yield the fields that are much older.

The damage caused by the rain to the first crop of hay cannot at this time be estimated but it is not considered to be enormous.

## PHILLIPS IS DEFENDANT IN A SUIT

Fred Norris Seeks Restraining Order to Prevent Chief of Police  
from Interfering with  
Rooming House

Filed in the district court is the case of Fred Norris vs. Ben Phillips, chief of police, et al, the petition for a restraining order to prevent the officer and assistants from "making any arrests" of the guests in the rooming house operated by the plaintiff on trumped up charges.

The plaintiff alleged in the petition that he owned and operated a rooming house between Second and Third streets, on Chickasha avenue, in a "quiet, peaceful and proper manner," and that Stevenson, a co-defendant, operated an adjoining rooming house; that a week prior to the filing of the suit Stevenson and Phillips colluded and were parties to a frame-up to so harass the guests in the plaintiff's house, as to injure his business; that Stevenson had filed "some kind of pretended complaint" against Norris with the understanding that Chief Phillips and his assistants "would arrest the guests of the plaintiff on pretended and false charges."

It is further alleged that several times the chief and his assistants had arrested the plaintiff's guests in the "late hours of the night, while they were in their rooms, asleep and disturbing no one, for the purpose of harassing them and injuring the plaintiff's business," and locked them up in the city jail without any legal charge against them.

The defendant avers that he is conducting a legitimate and lawful business and seeks immediate relief from the alleged injuries, in the form of a temporary restraining order, pending the hearing of the case in court.

## TESTS FOR THE FLEET

By United Press.

New York, May 19.—During the ten days beginning today the Atlantic fleet is to undergo the severest test possible outside of actual war, with a view to demonstrating the worth of the American navy as a means of national defense. When the big fleet departed from this harbor yesterday Admiral Fletcher carried sealed orders to destroy a powerful red fleet coming ostensibly from Europe to bombard the North Atlantic coast of the United States.

This attacking fleet is not to be commanded by a foreigner, but by Rear Admiral Frank E. Beatty, U. S. N. The attack and defense will be made in accordance with plans mapped out by the naval war college at Newport, the president of which, Rear Admiral Knight, is to serve as umpire of the maneuvers. The actual details of the war game have not been disclosed, except the fact that Admiral Fletcher and his big fleet of battleships and smaller craft will be expected to successfully defend the entire coast from Cape Hatteras to Eastport, Me., against bombardment of a possible landing by the "enemy."

## NEW CHIEF OF NAVY IS IN CHARGE

Rear Admiral Benson Takes Up  
Duties in Washington—"Sea  
Dog" of Many Years and  
Varied Experiences

## APPOINTMENT IS WELL RECEIVED

Suits Both Conservatives and Rad-  
icals in Navy Circles—Wins  
Promotion by Long and  
Faithful Service

BY BURTON K. STANDISH,  
(Written for the United Press.)

Washington, May 19.—Ex-circumnavigator of Africa, ex-Arctic explorer, a sea rover more or less for twenty-two years, Rear Admiral William Shepherd Benson, late Capt. Benson, commander of the Philadelphia navy yard, has taken up his duties as chief of naval operations here with the confidence of his superiors, the respect of his equals, and the admiration of his subordinates. Nearly sixty years old, he is known to his intimate friends as "Dear Old Ben," old in this being a term of affection and not applying to physical appearance. When you meet Admiral Benson you see a man apparently forty-five, tall and with fine carriage, dark hair slightly sprinkled with gray, and with deep set, piercing eyes that show the born leader.

Rear Admiral Benson's appointment has been received with great satisfaction by both the conservatives and the radicals of the navy. His wide experience in naval tactics and administration has assured the former that he will do nothing wild, while the latter are confident that he is always progressive to the point of greatest efficiency. Indeed, his well established character for careful, sane, constructive work places him in a position in the navy similar to that held by Brig. Gen. Hugh Scott, chief of staff of the army. Dependability is said to be the keynote of Rear Admiral Benson's character.

His appointment came as somewhat of a surprise to the navy set in Washington, where he has been but two months out of his twenty-two years' service. It is inferred by many that Secretary Daniels chose him for that reason, in order to insure the greatest possible amount of co-operation between the new chief of naval operations and those with whom he has to work, particularly the secretary himself. The latter's first choice for the position was Admiral Fletcher, but he was unwilling to give up the command of the Atlantic fleet. Many of the other officers, who were supposed would be offered the position have, as Rear Admiral Flske, shown such a difference of opinion with Secretary Daniels that the latter thought it best to pick an officer sympathetic with his naval policy.

There has been nothing spectacular about Rear Admiral Benson's rise. He has won each promotion by long, steady, faithful service and attention to duty. He is a native of Macon, Ga., the son of an instructor in Greek in one of the southern colleges.

This appointment is in particular departure from what is called naval administration by the "swivel-chair brigade," that is, officers who have been holding down positions in the department for many years and who cannot, many believe, bring the necessary amount of practical experience to bear on their work. It is believed that the policy of Secretary Daniels is gradually to place in control the most important divisions of the navy those men who have shown talent in their work at sea and in their commands at naval stations.

Canal Shortens Distance.

By United Press.

Washington, May 19.—From Colon, at the Atlantic end of the Panama canal, to Balboa, at the Pacific end, the distance by canal is not quite forty-four miles. From Colon to Balboa, by the open ocean, the shortest way is 10,500 knots.

The difference is what a vessel saves by using the canal, according to figures given out by the commerce

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